

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK**

Byron White United States Courthouse
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Denver, Colorado 80257
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Elisabeth A. Shumaker
Clerk of Court

January 10, 2017

Chris Wolpert
Chief Deputy Clerk

Mr. H. Craig Pitts
Mr. Larry Elmer Finn
Rubenstein & Pitts
1503 East 19th Street
Edmond, OK 73013

RE: 17-6004, United States v. Billings
Dist/Ag docket: 5:14-CR-00306-M-1

Dear Counsel:

The court has received and docketed your appeal. Please note your case number above. Copies of the Tenth Circuit Rules, effective January 1, 2017, and the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, effective December 1, 2016, may be obtained by contacting this office or by visiting our website at <http://www.ca10.uscourts.gov>. In addition, please note all counsel are required to file pleadings via the court's Electronic Case Filing (ECF) system. You will find information regarding registering for and using ECF on the court's website. We invite you to contact us with any questions you may have about our operating procedures. Please note that all court forms are now available on the court's web site.

Please note effective December 1, 2016 multiple important changes to the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure will take effect. The changes include new word length requirements for briefs and amendment of the "three-day service" rule. Please visit our website at <http://www.ca10.uscourts.gov> to familiarize yourself with these changes.

Attorneys must complete and file an entry of appearance form within 14 days of the date of this letter. *See* 10th Cir. R. 46.1(A).. An attorney who fails to enter an appearance within that time frame will be removed from the service list for this case, and there may be other ramifications under the rules. If an appellee does not wish to participate in the appeal, a notice of non-participation should be filed via ECF as soon as possible. The notice should also indicate whether counsel wishes to continue receiving notice or service of orders issued in the case.

Although attorneys who file a notice of appeal have technically entered an appearance, and may not withdraw without the court's permission, counsel must still file a separate entry of appearance form. For criminal appeals, please note the court will require trial counsel to continue the representation whether retained or appointed, until an order issues allowing withdrawal. This is the case even if you did not sign the notice of appeal. *See* 10th Cir. R. 46.3(A). This initial continuity of counsel ensures that any criminal defendant who wishes to appeal has that appeal perfected.

Generally, the court will not allow counsel to withdraw until an entry of appearance form and the docketing statement are filed. *See* 10th Cir. R. 46.3(A). If there is an issue regarding the defendant's eligibility for the appointment of counsel, an appropriate motion must be filed in the district court. Where this is the case, it may be appropriate to file a motion seeking to extend the time for filing the motion to appoint or withdraw under the court's Criminal Justice Act plan.

You are required to file a docketing statement within 14 days of filing the notice of appeal. If you have not yet filed that pleading, you should do so within 14 days of the date of this letter. Please note that under 10th Cir. R. 3.4(B), the appellant is not limited to the issues identified in his docketing statement and may raise other appropriate issues in the opening brief.

In addition to the docketing statement, all transcripts must be ordered within 14 days of the date of this letter. If no transcript is necessary, you must file a statement to that effect.

Appellant is not required to file a designation of record, but will be required to file an appendix with appellant's opening brief. *See* 10th Cir. R. 10.2(B) and 30.1.

Appellant must file an opening brief and appendix within 40 days after the date on which the district clerk notifies the parties and the circuit clerk that the record is complete for purposes of appeal. *See* 10th Cir. R. 31.1(A)(1). Motions for extension of time to file briefs and appendices must comply with 10th Cir. R. 27.1 and 27.5. These motions are not favored.

Briefs must satisfy all requirements of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure and Tenth Circuit Rules with respect to form and content. *See* specifically Fed. R. App. P. 28 and 32 and 10th Cir. R. 28.1, 28.2 and 32, as well as 31.3 when applicable. In addition, we encourage all counsel, as applicable, to be familiar with 10th Cir. R. 46.4(B). Seven hard copies of briefs must be provided to the court within two days of filing via the court's Electronic Case Filing system. *See* 10th Cir. R. 31.5 and the court's [CM/ECF User's Manual](#). Appendices must satisfy the requirements of Fed. R. App. P. Rule 30 and 10th Cir. R. 30.1(A) through (F). Appendix volumes submitted under seal must be accompanied by a separate motion to seal. *See* 10th Cir. R. 30.1(D)(6). As of January 1, 2015, all appendices must be filed electronically, and a single hard copy provided to the court within two days of filing via the court's Electronic Case Filing system. *See* 10th Cir. R. 30 as well as the court's [CM/ECF User's Manual](#). Counsel are encouraged to utilize the court's [Briefing & Appendix checklist](#) when compiling their briefs and appendices.

Please contact this office if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elisabeth A. Shumaker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elisabeth A. Shumaker
Clerk of the Court

cc: Robert Donald Gifford II
David Patrick Petermann

EAS/kf